

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 and 15-19 without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 9-14 are pending in the subject application. Applicant maintains that the above amendments raise no issue of new matter.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

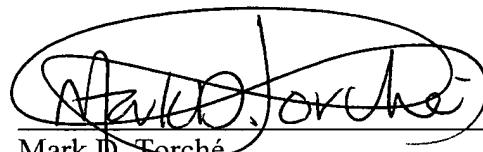
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label #EL583739087US) in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 28, 2000:

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Signature
November 28, 2000
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SHW:MDT:ck

Respectfully submitted,



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